



TIPS & HINTS ON WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HASTINGS, NE

~News About You~

Awards



Charlotte Hansen of Jewell, KS received a 15 year Length Of Service award. She is shown here with her morning coffee group. A very entertaining bunch of people. No wonder the town's name is Jewell. Charlotte reports precipitation and snowfall.

Larry Gillett of Burr Oak, KS received a 15 year LOS award. Larry routinely reports the precipitation and snowfall from his farm 1 mile north of Burr Oak. He also keeps us informed of most other types of weather going on in the area. Many times during the middle of the night.



Art Jarecke of Genoa, NE was presented with a 15 year LOS award. He is pictured here with Lead Forecaster Mike Moritz. Art has provided us with valuable readings on the Loup River during periods of heavy rain or ice jamming.

Welcome Aboard!

Great Lakes Aviation: Grand Island, NE
Julie Green: McCool Junction, NE
Jay Thompson: Wolbach, NE
Whitney Haigh: Beloit, KS
Rick Keller: Hunter, KS
Valari Sweat: Portis, KS

Please Don't Forget To
 Mail Us Your Forms and
 Tapes By The 10th Of the
 month

We'll Miss You!

Condolences to the friends and families of **Robert Haigh** and **Mildred Thompson**. They will be missed. Best wishes to **Henry Dembowski**, **Harold Heller**, **Myrtle Stewart**, **Marjorie Hardy**, **Steve Green**, and the folks at the **Grand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant** who have moved on to bigger and better things. Thanks for your years of service!

SPRING 2003 ISSUE

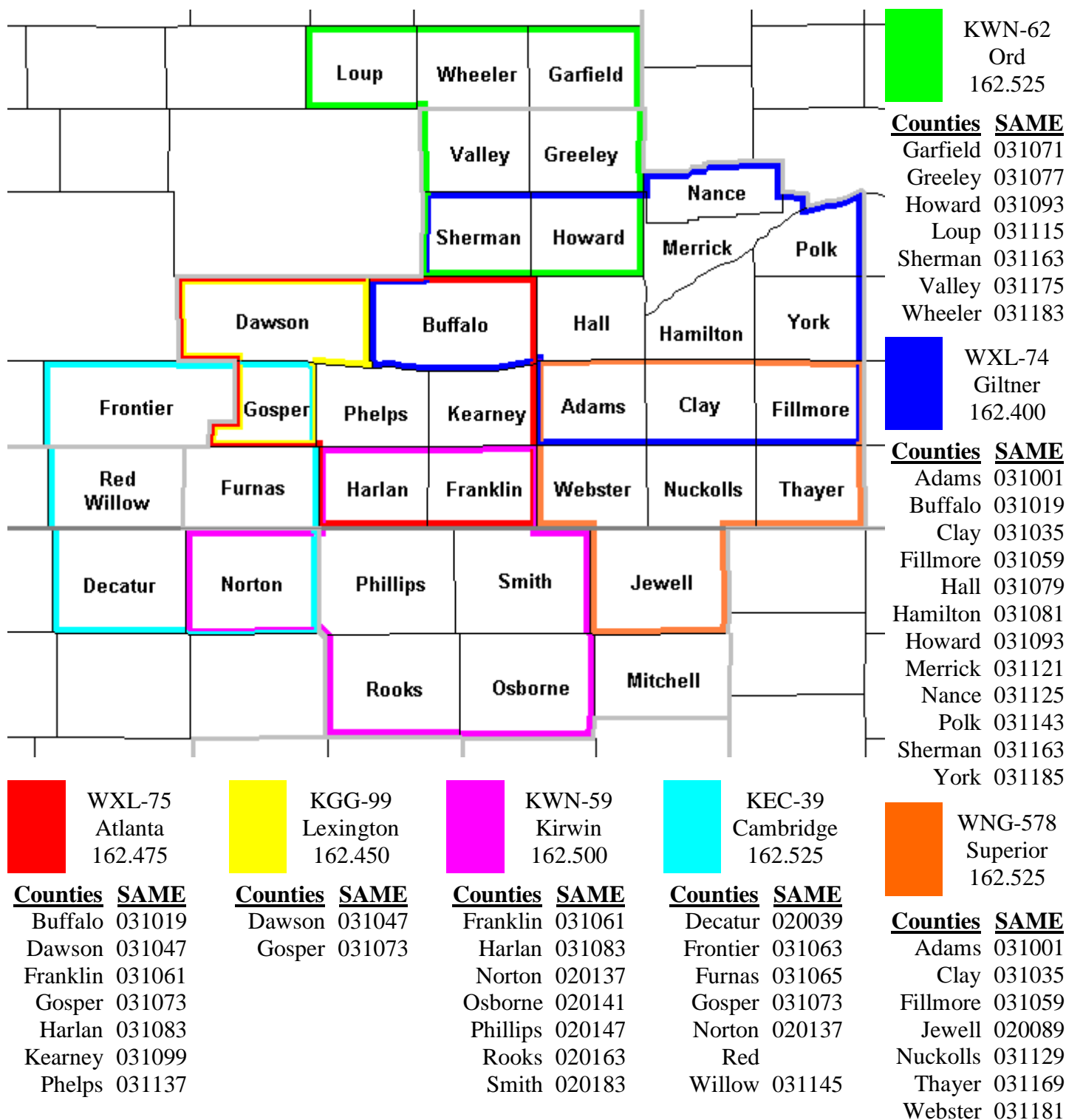
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EDITOR: STEPHEN CARBONI

NOAA Weather Radio Network

NOAA Weather Radio expansion is finally complete across South Central Nebraska and North Central Kansas. The map below is an illustration of all of the transmitters in the region, and the area each provides service for. Below the map is a color coded legend that also provides the counties and their respective SAME codes. SAME codes are used for programming counties into weather radio models built with SAME technology. For more information about NOAA Weather Radio, you can visit the weather radio section of our webpage at:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/nwr>



~News About Us~

WFO Hastings Gets A New Boss!

WFO Hastings Meteorologist-In-Charge Mr. Steven Schurr recently accepted a promotion to the National Weather Service Office in Omaha. We wish Steve and his family the best of luck in their new surroundings. Our new boss, Michael Lewis, will be joining us in the beginning of May. Here is some biographical information that Mr. Lewis has provided:

I was born in Central Ohio and lived most of my formative years outside of Cincinnati. I became interested in meteorology as a result of the April 3rd, 1974 tornado outbreak, now referred to as the "Super Outbreak". I attended college at the University of Oklahoma and graduated in December of 1984. After graduation, I returned to Cincinnati, applied to the NWS and waited. After nine months, I had given up hope of starting my career in the NWS and was prepared to join the Air Force.

The opportunity to join the Air Force never arrived. I was offered and accepted a position at the NWSFO in Los Angeles in November of 1985. In May of 1989, I transferred to the office in Salt Lake City as a Meteorologist Intern, and was later promoted to General Forecaster. I participated in community outreach; learned about mountain meteorology, fire weather, agricultural forecasting, and computer networks.

In November of 1992 I was on the move again, this time as a Lead Forecaster in Des Moines. My interest in computers and networking really took off here, and the electronics staff taught me the tools of the technicians trade. I was an active participant in the installation and troubleshooting of the computer network. My love of technology got me interested in the Science and Operations Officer position.

In April 1996, I accepted the Science and Operations Officer position at the office in Jackson, Kentucky. This office had been scheduled to close as part of the modernization of the NWS, however in 1996 new lifeblood was pumped into the office. While the main facility was being constructed, we operated out of a trailer and immediately after the 88D was turned on, started issuing warnings. During my 7 years in Jackson, I have been involved with outreach, science sharing, information technology, and routine administrative activities.

Over the last four years, my family has participated in the Cooperative Network. Our equipment was located on a farm in Wolfe County, Kentucky (TNTK2). This was truly a family affair and I understand the importance and necessity of the cooperative network. Your observations are truly an integral part of the climate record for our country.

My wife (Carol) and children (Molly and Ryan) look forward to our arrival in Nebraska. We have fond memories of the Great Plains and will become active participants in the community. Until we have a chance to meet, keep up the good work and feel free to contact your NWS office at any time.

We're here because of you!

Michael Lewis
michael.lewis@noaa.gov

50-Year Anniversary of Deadly Tornado

By: Steven Kisner, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

A significant tornado will mark its 50th anniversary this year. It occurred in Hebron, Nebraska late in the evening of May the 9th. It set down in Hebron and moved to the northeast. The tornado passed just east of Belvidere, then to near Ohiowa, on to about 3 miles southeast of Friend, and then lifted about 4 miles west of Milford. The tornado was rated as a "Severe Tornado" with a Fujita scale rating of F3. This tornado likely had winds between 158 to 206 mph.

Five people lost their lives in downtown Hebron. Some 50 homes and 40 businesses were destroyed as well as airplanes and hangers at the airport. The upper part of the Hebron High School was ripped away by the twister. Not much was left standing at the Sacred Heart Church except for a small arched chapel. In the chapel, a figure of Christ was unharmed. Outside of town, 13 farmhouses were destroyed. Eighty people were injured by the storm and the damage was estimated to be around 2.5 million dollars.

From The Mind Of Marla: Reporting Hail

Warmer temperatures and precipitation that doesn't have to be melted is on its way! Don't we all like the sound of that! Although, the winter months were relatively mild for the most part. **Now is the time to put the funnels back in our rain gauges and gear up for summertime reporting!**

Hail is entered in the 24-hr amounts section in the Snow, ice pellets, (ins. and tenths) column; (Column 5). A few examples are:

1. You observe one inch hailstones that do not cover 50% or more of the ground and they have all completely melted by observation time. You would enter the following on your form:
 - * an X in the Hail column under Weather
 - * a T for trace in Column 5
 - * a 0 when you take your ob in the Snow, ice pellets, hail, ice on ground (*ins*) column; (Column 6) in the At Ob. section
 - * the size of the hail and the time it occurred under Remarks
2. You observe one inch hailstones that do cover 50% or more of the ground and by observation time, some of the hailstones have melted, but there are still enough to cover 50% or more of the ground. You would enter the following on your form:
 - * an X in the Hail column under Weather
 - * a 1.0 (or however deep the hailstones got) for the hail amount in Column 5
 - * a 1 (or however deep the hailstones still are) when you take your ob in the Snow, ice pellets, hail, ice on ground (*ins*) column; (Column 6) in the At Ob. section
 - * the size of the hail and the time it occurred under Remarks

REMEMBER, after you write down your temperature and/or precipitation entries for the previous 24 hour period ending at 7AM or 8AM, you **DO NOT** change those entries based on what happens later that day. These entries are for a 24 hour period, not a calendar day. Weather entries are for a calendar day.

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For more weather information, check us out on the internet at www.crh.noaa.gov/gid